

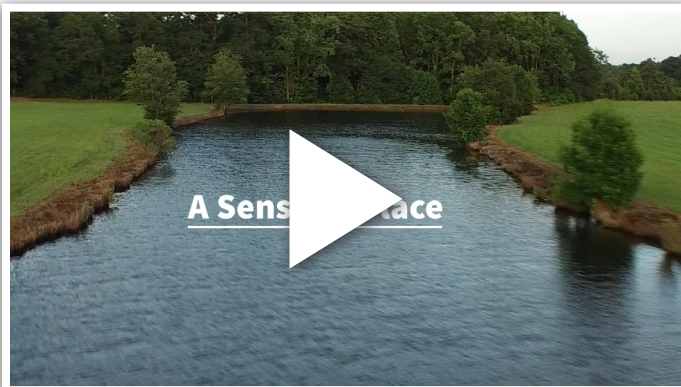


Living in Blythewood



This interactive document offers you the opportunity to watch some residents talk about why they choose to call Blythewood home. Some have families that have been here for many generations, others have lived here for a few years or even for just a few months. What they have in common is their enthusiasm for the town. They all seek a quality of life found in a small rural community, while being able to enjoy the buzz, culture and amenities to be found in the nearby cities. To watch and listen to the videos, simply click on the video images, then sit back and enjoy!

A Sense of Place



Blythewood is a family oriented and friendly, small but growing, rural town situated about 17 miles north of South Carolina's capitol city, Columbia, and about 76 miles south of the city of Charlotte, NC.

People have lived in the Blythewood area for at least 2000 years. The colonial period brought settlers from across Europe to farm in the area, but the town really became established when the railway passed through here connecting Charlotte to Augusta. Back then the town was called Doko, which many believe came from a Native American word meaning "watering hole". It turned out to be a very appropriate name, as the steam trains passing through the area would stop at Doko Halt be restocked with firewood and water to continue their journey. The town grew around the train depot with where settlers arrived and started farms in the surrounding countryside, it soon grew to encompass what today is the place called Blythewood.

A Place for Family



Blythewood has a wide variety of homes, including many fine housing developments as well as older neighborhoods, and houses, and farms scattered throughout the picturesque rolling hills.

It is a safe and settled place, with its own sheriff's sub station and fire stations. High quality hospitals are nearby, a short drive down I-77, which serves Blythewood with two exits.

Blythewood is also a great place to learn. We are in the award-winning Richland 2 school district which has a long tradition of running some of the best schools in the state. There are pre-school groups held in churches and independent learning centers, as well as eight K-12 public schools: three elementary, three middle and two high schools. All are well-run and well-funded schools with committed teachers working with splendid state-of-the-art educational and sports facilities.

For young and older adults, there are numerous colleges and universities, including the state flagship: the University of South Carolina, within a 20-mile radius of the town, offering a wide variety of art, science and professional degrees.

Blythewood is also home to many places of worship that are well attended and provide much support and care to those that live here. They also sponsor many community-based activities and events of their own which contribute to the quality of life of the town. Although Blythewood's churches are predominantly Christian, most world religions are also represented by organizations a short drive down the road in Columbia, where you will find mosques, temples, and synagogues.

An Active Place



Every week in season, there is a farmers market held on the edge of Doko Meadows, the town's park, where local growers sell their produce, craft vendors sell their wares, a variety of seafood and meats arrive from area farms and coastal fishermen. And in case you are ready to eat when you arrive, food trucks are present offering tasty morsels.

While shopping you can hear live music from local musicians and your children play in the park's firstclass playground.

Every year there are lively public events attended by hundreds of people from near and far, including:

- **The “Beach Bash”** - an opportunity to embrace the warmer weather in the spring by dancing the night away to a live band.
- **The “4th of July celebration”** - live music in the amphitheater at Doko Meadows with beverages, food and fireworks.
- **The “Doko Rodeo”** - An IPRA championship rodeo featuring bull riding and barrel racing where world-class cowboys and cowgirls compete for big prize money & qualifying points that they need for the International Finals Rodeo held in Oklahoma City.
- **The “Blythewood Butterfly Festival”** - held in the fall at Doko Meadows where live monarch butterflies are released also arts, crafts, and educational activities abound, all centered on the theme of butterflies!

And everyday, people and their children are playing sports in the park, swinging on the swings in the playground, enjoying the library and its many events or chatting in the stores of the town with their friends and neighbors.

As well as the events in Blythewood there are many other ways to have fun and maybe even stay fit at the same time! There are numerous highly rated golf courses, walking, running and horse-back riding trails as well as baseball, football, soccer and lacrosse happening in the schools. For the big sports, try the Carolina Panthers NFL team and the Charlotte Hornets NBA team in Charlotte or the University of South Carolina's (USC) Gamecocks football, basketball, national championship baseball and other sports teams just down the road in Columbia. The other fine universities in the Columbia area also have their own teams that draw big crowds. Blythewood itself hosts the USC's Gamecocks women's golf team at Cobblestone Park and right across the street, the national champion equestrian team.

But its not just about sport, there is also a thriving cultural arts community represented by the Blythewood Artists Guide, Bravo Blythewood, and the Blythewood Historical Society. Civic organizations are also actively involved in the community, including the Greater Blythewood Chamber of Commerce and local chapters of other national and international societies, such as Rotary, Lions, etc.

A Place Connected



Because of the proximity of I-77 and three other nearby Interstate highways, Blythewoodians can easily escape to almost anywhere in the region and the world when vacation time calls. It's an easy drive to the sea and the mountains, to Washington or Orlando. From Blythewood, Charleston is 136 miles, Asheville is 178 miles, Orlando is 472 miles. For farther getaways, Columbia's airport provides connections to major hubs and smaller airports through out the USA. Charlotte on the other hand is an international hub, in fact the world's 7th busiest airport, offering flights to destinations thought out the USA and the world.

Charlotte and Columbia boast convention and concert centers, theaters, art and history museums, a NASCAR museum, Riverbanks Zoo, waterparks and Carowinds amusement park.

Employment opportunities are plentiful in Columbia (the government and academic center of South Carolina and Charlotte (a major US finance and business center) as well as in the many businesses large and small within the Blythewood area.